



USAID
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NIGERIA

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THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS THE ERADICATION OF MALARIA IN NIGERIA

Malaria kills 300,000 Nigerian children and 7,000 mothers every year, and accounts for nearly half of all curative health care expenditure. Lost labor and the expense of treatment cost the Nigerian economy at least \$1.3 billion annually. Recognizing the appalling economic and human toll malaria takes on Nigeria, the United States Government, through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), will invest at least \$20 million over the next five years on curative and preventive interventions to combat malaria in selected Nigerian states. The USAID program is part of a larger initiative, announced by President Bush in 2005, to combat malaria in Africa. On December 14, 2006, President and Mrs. Bush convened an international summit at the White House to strengthen partnerships and grassroots efforts to reduce the malaria burden.

USAID and its implementing partners employ a number of effective and proven community-based and national interventions, including: intermittent presumptive treatment of pregnant women; marketing and distribution of bundled mosquito nets and treatment kits; marketing of pre-packaged drugs to ensure prompt, appropriate treatment of malaria in children under five; and training of community members and community based medicine vendors in home management of malaria to ensure prompt and rational treatment.

In its pre-packaged anti malarial therapy (PPT) program, USAID has distributed approximately five million doses of pre-packaged "KidCare" anti-malarial treatment nationwide, and trained 4,000 patent medicine vendors on malaria management. Production of the packs was commissioned to local pharmaceutical companies, thereby strengthening the country's manufacturing capacity.

USAID also works to increase the availability of insecticide treated mosquito nets and long-lasting insecticidal nets, and to build the productive capacity of large and small scale Nigerian net manufacturers. Over the past three years these efforts have made over 5 million protective nets available to Nigerian women and children. By 2010 over 30 million insecticide treated nets will be distributed through USAID programs.

Supporting the Government of Nigeria's transition from chloroquine-based malaria therapy to the more effective artemisinin-based combination therapy (ACT), USAID is partnering with a Nigerian manufacturer to establish an ACT pilot distribution site in Aba, Abia state. By November 2006, 26,000 doses of the new ACT Larimal were distributed, and another new ACT brand has been developed and is ready for launch.

The Nigerian government's efforts in policy formulation have also benefited from technical assistance from the USG. This assistance has culminated in the approval of the Roll Back Malaria Strategic Work Plan and the implementation of the National Anti-Malarial Treatment Policy. Other policy thrusts include the Malaria in Pregnancy Guidelines and the Insecticide Treatment Policy, which have also been endorsed.